Reentry Program

PA Board of Probation and Parole
Introduction

The Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole’s Reentry Programs are specialized programs that help reduce recidivism and improve public safety through a team of probation and parole professionals, providing intensive supervision and oversight to program participants.

Research reveals that no other intervention brings to bear such an intensive response with such dramatic results as do drug courts and reentry programs. The reentry programs are based on the principles developed by the National Association of Drug Court Professionals in collaboration with the U. S. Department of Justice.

Drug use and criminal behavior are substantially reduced while offenders are participating in drug court. (Belenko, 1998:2001)

The role of the reentry program is to help implement plans for the offender’s release, set goals for and remain involved with the offender during his or her period on parole and maintain active oversight of the offender.

Responsibilities generally include:

- Review offender’s reentry progress and problems;
- Order offenders to participate in various treatment and reintegration programs;
- Use drug and alcohol testing and other checks to monitor compliance;
- Apply graduated sanctions to offenders who do not comply with treatment requirements and provide modest incentive rewards for sustained clean drug tests and other positive behaviors.

The Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole is committed to promoting public safety, utilizing sound decision making practices that include evidence-based approaches, employing effective methods to aid offenders in reentering society and to reduce recidivism, addressing the needs of crime victims, and improving county adult probation and parole services.

Leo L. Dunn, Chairman
Goal
The goal of the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole’s (PBPP) reentry program is to provide individually tailored continuity of service for each parolee, maximizing their ability to succeed in the community.

Program Overview
PBPP reentry program sessions may differ from county to county depending on the resources and needs of the particular county.

The reentry program is a mandatory program for designated parolees who have a history of drug/alcohol abuse or addiction.
- The program lasts approximately 12-18 months.
- After completion of the program, the offender will continue standard supervision with a general unit parole agent.

Generally, one program session per month is conducted at the county courthouse with the following team members:
- PBPP board member, common pleas judge, parole manager/project manager, parole supervisor, parole agents, county drug and alcohol counseling case managers and any other community agencies deemed appropriate.
- The number of times the offender is required to report to the reentry program will decrease to bi-monthly as the offender progresses through the program.

Prior to the program session, the team evaluates each offender’s supervision adjustment, employment, alcohol and/or other drug treatment requirements and any other concerns or issues.
- Monthly progress reports are distributed to all team members.

Following the team meeting, the program monthly session begins.
- Offenders are called before the board member and the common pleas judge to address their progress, concerns and/or problems. At this time sanctions or incentives are administered by the board member to the participant as deemed appropriate.

While in the reentry program, all general or special parole conditions imposed on the offender by the PBPP must be followed, as well as the requirements of the program.

Benefits for the Offender
- Priority placement in an institutional therapeutic community program
- Increased employment assistance
- Life-skill and financial planning training
- Financial assistance for a learned trade through the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
Eligibility

Offenders are identified for possible participation at the time of their initial interview based on the following criteria:

- Paroled or re-paroled state sentenced offenders returning to the county from which they were sentenced.
- Offenders serving periods of special probation may be considered for the program on a case by case basis.
- Score of 20 or higher on the Level of Service Inventory- Revised (LSI-R) risk and needs assessment instrument (medium and high-risk offenders).
- Completion of a therapeutic community (TC) while confined at a state correctional institution. Offenders who did not participate in the TC are considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Score of 6 or higher on the Texas Christian University (TCU) drug screen OR a history of drug/alcohol abuse which demonstrates an alcohol and/or other drug (AOD) treatment requirement.
- At least 18 months remaining on supervision from date of release.
- **Sex offenders and offenders with serious mental health issues are not considered for the reentry program.**

Institutional parole staff will make a recommendation to the PBPP that the offender is an eligible candidate for the program. The PBPP will condition the offender to participate in the program.

- Parole agents assigned to the program investigate all aspects of the home and employment plan.

With the approval of the home plan and other release criteria, the offender is released and enrolled in the reentry program.
The Four Phases of the Board’s Reentry Program

All phases have supervision and urinalysis requirements based on the individual programs in that county. The phases are based on an intensive supervision model where the amount of offender/collateral contacts and random drug testing decreases over the phases based on the offender’s success.

**Phase 1**
**Time Frame:** MINIMUM of 90 days

**Goals:**
- Abstain from illegal drugs and alcohol usage
- Attend drug/alcohol and any other mandated treatment as directed
- Search to obtain full-time employment and/or education
- Initiate payments on all financial obligations
- Achieve a healthy family environment
- Obtain a community mentor
- Attain all personal goals

**Supervision Standards:** 2 face-to-face contacts per month and 1 office face-to-face contact per week; 2 collateral contacts per month, 1 of which must be face-to-face.

**Drug Testing:** 2 random AOD screenings per week. The team may recommend additional screenings.

**PBPP Reentry Program Session:** 1 per month

**Curfew/Electronic Monitoring:** The offender shall be placed on EME, SCRAM and staff imposed curfews as deemed necessary.

**Treatment:** Maintain compliance with all required AOD, mental health or other required counseling.

**AA/NA or Secular Alternative Program Attendance:**
- Participate according to treatment recommendations
- Initial search for an AA/NA or secular alternative sponsor
- Submit AA/NA or secular alternative signature attendance documents to the parole supervision staff on a weekly basis

**Phase 2**
**Time Frame:** MINIMUM of 90 days

**Goals:**
- Continued abstinence from illegal drugs and alcohol
- Continued compliance with treatment recommendations
- Maintain full-time employment
- Regular payments on legal financial obligations
- Community reintegration
- Perform community service as directed by the Reentry team
• Continue to work with the identified community mentor
• Obtain an AA/NA or secular alternative sponsor
• Use of CareerLink/ASCRA for job skills training and employment enhancement
• AOD screening shall be taken at every face-to-face contact. The team may recommend additional screenings.

**Supervision Standards:** Agent shall conduct 2 field face-to-face contacts per month and 2 office face-to-face contacts per month. There must also be 2 collateral contacts per month.

**Board Reentry Program Session:** 1 per month

**Curfew/Electronic Monitoring:**
May be waived during this phase. The Reentry Agent may use SCRAM if appropriate.

**Drug Testing:** Conduct an AOD screening at every face-to-face contact. The team may recommend additional screenings.

**Treatment:** Maintain compliance with all required treatment plans

**AA/NA or secular alternative program attendance:** Continued participation in accordance with recommendations from the treatment provider and recommendations from the reentry team.

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**Phase 3**

**Time Frame:** MINIMUM of 90 days

**Goals:**
- Remain drug and alcohol free
- Continue compliance with treatment goals
- Maintain employment and a stable home environment
- Continue community service
- Regular payments on legal financial obligations
- Continue to pursue personal goals

**Supervision Standards:** Reentry parole agent shall conduct 1 field face-to-face contact per month, 1 collateral contact per month, one office face-to-face contact per month, and a minimum of 1 AOD screening per month. The team may recommend additional screenings.

**Reentry Program Session:** 1 per month

**Curfew/Electronic Monitoring:** None, unless mandated by the reentry program team

**Treatment:** Should continue as deemed appropriate by the treatment provider(s) and/or the reentry team. The parole agent may use SCRAM if appropriate.

**AA/NA or Secular Alternative Program Attendance:**
- Maintain sponsor
- Participate as directed by the treatment provider and/or reentry team
Phase 4
Time Frame: MINIMUM of 90 days
Reentry Program Session: Every other month
Curfew/Electronic Monitoring: None
SCRAM: None
Treatment: Should be completed
AA/NA or Secular Alternative Program Attendance: As mandated by the treatment provider or the reentry team

Supervision Standards: The reentry parole agent shall conduct 3 face-to-face offender contacts per 3 months with 1 contact at the approved residence. Conduct 1 face-to-face collateral contact per 3 months. The offender will be recommended for graduation upon successful completion of the phase if sanction free for 3 months.

Graduation Criteria
- Upon successful completion of all four phases, the offender will be successfully discharged from the reentry program.
- If deemed appropriate by the reentry team, a suitable plaque or other certificate will be provided to the offender at his/her last reentry program session or in a formal graduation ceremony.
- Parole supervision staff will issue a Release from Special Condition (PBPP 337) reflecting that the offender has successfully completed the PBPP reentry program. Offender supervision will remain with the reentry parole agent at a minimum level of supervision for 1 year.

Current Reentry Programs
PBPP has four reentry programs currently established: Lackawanna County (2008), Dauphin County (2013), Allegheny (2014) and Philadelphia (2014).

Who do I call?
The Bureau of Offender Reentry may be reached at the following number and extensions:

**717.787.5699** EXT. 1162 | EXT. 1163 | EXT. 1164 | EXT. 1165

For specific inmate inquiries from attorneys, family members, friends and the general public, please call the Inmate Inquiry Unit at: **717.772.4343**